



U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

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441 G St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20548

October 28, 2014

Mr. Bob Trent  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Mail Code 2732A  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Trent:

This letter is to inform you of a new U.S. Government Accountability Office engagement on Injection Well Enforcement—code 361614. The enclosure provides information on the engagement. If we determine it is necessary to visit locations other than those specified in the enclosure, we will advise you.

We would appreciate your notifying the appropriate officials of this work. The next step will be to set up an entrance conference. At that meeting, we will request that your agency identify a point of contact for this engagement.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alfredo Gomez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" for Gomez.

Alfredo Gomez, Director  
Natural Resources and Environment

Enclosure

Enclosure

Information on New Engagement

Engagement subject: Injection Well Enforcement

Engagement code: 361614

Source for the work: GAO is beginning this work in response to a request made by the Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and others

Issue(s) under review/Objective(s)/Key question(s):

1. What is known about the enforcement actions EPA and the states have taken in response to class II well violations?
2. How do EPA and select states track violations and use the information to take enforcement actions?
3. How and when does EPA get involved in state enforcement actions?

Agencies and anticipated locations (HQ and field) to be notified:

EPA Headquarters and Regional Offices

Other departments/agencies to be contacted:

States—California, Colorado, Kentucky, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas

Estimated start date for the work:

Immediately

Time frame for holding the entrance conference:

Week of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

GAO Team(s) performing the engagement:

Natural Resources and Environment

GAO contacts:

Alfredo Gomez, Director, 202-512-3841, gomezj@gao.gov  
Susan Iott, Assistant Director, 303-572-7383, iotts@gao.gov  
Micah McMillan, Analyst-in-Charge, 303-572-7319, mcmillanm@gao.gov